

IN THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently amended) A power-driven nailing machine comprising:
a driving cylinder;
a driving piston slidably housed within the driving cylinder;
a driver coupled with the driving piston;
a nose body having a lower end with a nail discharge port; and
a contact nose arranged to be protrusively urged toward a leading end of the nose body, the contact nose having an upper end and a leading end, including a cylindrical portion formed at its upper portion such that the cylindrical portion defines a circular cylindrical bore extending from an interior of the contact nose to the upper end, the nose body being housed in the ~~cylindrical portion~~ circular cylindrical bore such that the contact nose is held slidably along the nail discharge port of the nose body,

wherein the contact nose includes a leading end discharge port for guiding a nail driven from the leading end discharge port toward a work, and the leading end discharge port includes a guide portion longer than the nail.

2. Canceled.

3. (Previously presented) The power-driven nailing machine according to claim 1, wherein the guide portion includes:

a straight guide portion formed at a leading end side of the leading end discharge port; and

a tapered guide face formed above the straight guide portion and having an inner diameter gradually increasing upward, and

when a leading end of the nail is driven into the work, the leading end of the nail and the head of the nail is positioned within the straight guide portion.

4. (Original) The power-driven nailing machine according to claim 1, wherein the guide portion includes:

a first tapered guide portion formed at a leading end side of the leading end discharge port; and

a second tapered guide portion formed above the first tapered segment and having an inner diameter gradually increasing upward, and

wherein the first tapered guide portion is tapered with an inner diameter increasing from the leading end toward second tapered guide portion.

5. (Previously Presented) The power-driven nailing machine of claim 1, further comprising a trigger for activating the driving piston.

6. (Previously Presented) The power-driven nailing machine of claim 5, wherein the contact nose is movable relative to the nose body such that in one configuration the nose body blocks movement of the contact nose so that the trigger is actuated.

7. (Previously Presented) The power-driven nailing machine of claim 1, wherein the driving piston is driven by compressed air.

8. (Currently amended) A power-driven nailing machine adapted to drive at least one-sized nail into a work piece comprising:

a driving cylinder with a longitudinal axis, including

a driving piston operable between first and second positions, the second position being spaced from the first position along the longitudinal axis, and

a driver having first and second ends, the first end being connected to the driving piston, the second end having a first outer dimension transverse to the longitudinal axis;

a nose body having third and fourth ends proximate the driving cylinder, the third end of the nose body being disposed between the driving cylinder and the fourth end of the nose body, the nose body including a first passage extending from the third end to the fourth end, the passage defining a first inner dimension transverse to the longitudinal axis of the driving cylinder, the first inner dimension being greater than the first outer dimension;

a contact nose having a leading end, the contact nose including a hollow member with proximal and distal ends, the hollow member defining inner and outer surfaces extending from the proximal end to the distal end, the fourth end of the nose body being circumferentially received within the proximal end of the hollow member such that the nose body is slidable relative to the hollow member between third and fourth positions, the ~~second~~ fourth end resting on a first portion of the inner surface at the fourth position and being spaced from the first portion of the inner surface at the third position, the inner surface further including a guide portion disposed between the fourth position and the distal end, the guide portion being configured and dimensioned to form a radial enclosure about the at least one-sized nail such that the radial enclosure aligns the at least one-sized nail with the longitudinal axis of the driving cylinder before the driver pushes the at least one-sized nail out the leading end of the contact nose into the work piece; and

a nail supply mechanism disposed between the driving cylinder and the fourth end of the nose body such that the nail supply mechanism supplies the at least one-sized nail to the nose body, the nail supply mechanism being configured and dimensioned to accommodate only nails having a length less than or equal to the distance measured along the longitudinal axis from the leading end of the contact nose to a farthest extent of the radial enclosure.

9. (Previously Presented) The power-driven nailing machine of claim 8, wherein the guide portion includes a tapered guide face.

10. (Previously Presented) The power-driven nailing machine of claim 9, wherein the radial enclosure has a straight guide portion.

11. (Currently amended) The power-driven nailing machine of claim 10, further comprising a trigger such that actuating the trigger causes the driving piston to move from the first position to the second position.

12. (Currently amended) The power-driven nailing machine of claim 11, wherein the contact nose is movable relative to the nose body such that in one configuration the nose body blocks movement of the contact nose to ~~actuate~~ activate the trigger.

13. (Previously Presented) The power-driven nailing machine of claim 11, further comprising a grip connected to driving cylinder.

14. (Previously Presented) The power-driven nailing machine of claim 13, wherein the grip includes a chamber for storing compressed air.

15. (Previously Presented) The power-driven nailing machine of claim 14, wherein the driving piston is driven by compressed air from the chamber.

16. (Previously Presented) The power-driven nailing machine of claim 8, wherein the driver extends through the passage in the nose body and into the contact nose when the driving piston is in the second position.

17. (New) The power-driven nailing machine of claim 8, wherein the proximal end of the hollow member comprises a first circular cylindrical bore defined by the inner surface and the fourth end of the nose body is circumferentially received within the first circular cylindrical bore.

18. (New) The power-driven nailing machine of claim 17, wherein the first circular cylindrical bore has a first diameter and the distal end of the hollow member comprises a second circular cylindrical bore defined by the inner surface, the second circular cylindrical bore having a second diameter different than the first diameter.

19. (New) The power-driven nailing machine of claim 18, wherein the first diameter is greater than the second diameter.

20. (New) The power-driven nailing machine of claim 19, wherein the second circular cylindrical bore forms part of the guide portion.